under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources has been constituted to monitor/review the progress of Technical Assistance implementation and provide necessary guidance for successful implementation of Technical Assistance. The first meeting of the High Level Standing Committee was held on 20th November, 2008.

Contractual employees at airports in Gujarat

108. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware about the State Government of Gujarat Contract Labour Board's decision taken in the year 2001 in the matter of General Motors who were authorized to employ contract labour with a condition that workers will be paid wages (basic, DA and other allowances) as well as other facilities such as uniform, shoes, canteen, bonus, leave benefits, etc. similar to permanent workers; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the contractual workers at various airports in Gujarat are not paid wages and other facilities as mentioned above in spite of clear-cut order of Labour and Employment Department of the State Government of Gujarat, date 16th July, 2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Airports Authority of India outsources works of sporadic nature which are carried out through engagement of contract workers. These workers are being paid the prescribed minimum wages and other statutory benefits as per the notification of the Appropriate Government under the provisions of Minimum Wages Act.

Air services in the country

109. SHRI SABIR ALI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of air services in North India, East India and North East India;

(b) the plans to strengthen these services in near future;

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be involved therein; and

(d) the likely impact on the overall prosperity of those regions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) All the operational airports in the North, East and North-East India are air linked with the scheduled air services, the details of which are as follows:

North India (as per FIR boundary)

Agra, Allahabad, Amritsar, Chandigarh, Delhi, Dharmashala, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Gwalior, Jaipur, Jammu, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer, Kanpur, Khajuraho, Kullu, Leh, Lucknow, Pathankot, Shimla, Srinagar, Thoise, Varanasi and Udaipur.

East India (as per FIR boundary)

Bhubaneshwar, Gaya, Jamshedpur, Kolkata, Patna, Ranchi and Port Blair.

North-East India (as per FIR boundary)

Agartala, Aizwal, Bagdogra, Dibrugarh, Dimapur, Guwahati, Imphal, Jorhat, Lilabari, Shillong and Silchar.